

For Four Weeks' Program see pp. 8-11

How to
ORGANIZE
the
Stewardship
Movement

By Ralph S. Cushman

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The Local Drive

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The Conference Drive

"We welcome, therefore, as fundamental to this entire World Program, the proposal of the Centenary Commission that it shall provide for a revival of study of Christian Stewardship and the payment of the Tithe as a material acknowledgment."

Missionary Centenary Resolutions

Foreword

THE program for the Stewardship Campaign as outlined in these pages is recommended by the Joint Centenary Committee after having been thoroughly tried out in the Central New York Conference in a Stewardship Educational Campaign, having as a definite goal "Ten Thousand Signed Tithing-Stewards in the Central New York Conference."

At the time of this writing hundreds of churches in other Districts have thus early successfully proved the program.

Doubtless the outline here given will be improved as the Church-wide Stewardship Movement spreads.

Probably adaptations should be made to meet local situations, but on the whole these pages indicate a practical working program for the much needed Nation-wide Revival of Christian Stewardship.*

DAVID D. FORSYTH
S. EARL TAYLOR

*These words, written in January 1918, have been amply justified by the reports which have since been received from scores of districts where the Four-Weeks' Program has been carried out in connection with the Stewardship Campaign which is now sweeping throughout the entire denomination.

Why a Million Tithers

I

In order to find at least a million Methodists who will put God and His Kingdom first.

“With most professing Christians self, home, business, pleasure come first. The Church takes last place. When a man is asked to become a tither, he is asked to establish as a life principle the habit of putting God first. This, of course, gets the tithe, but it does vastly more, it gets the tither. It creates a new race of Christians who put God and his Church where they rightfully belong—first.”

II

In order to bring men genuinely to believe in God's Ownership.

This leads them to set apart regularly a definite proportion of income as a material *acknowledgment*. From the days of Eden until now some special “separated portion” has been the acknowledgment of God's ownership.

III

In order to emphasize that God's minimum “acknowledgment” has been the tenth.

Some have given when they felt like it. Others want to give “until it hurts” and they are soon hurt. But God's published ratio has never been less than one-tenth.

IV

In order to secure recognition of the fundamental relation between worship and money giving.

Even heathenism teaches that prayer and profession are cheap unless backed by material

expression. Christian Stewardship recognizes that money giving is generally the truest index we have of a vital human interest, and of a truly consecrated life.

V

In order to teach that the value of tithing depends on the motive of the tither.

Of course the tithes will supply the sinews of war and will naturally bring habits of thrift to the tither, but fundamentally the tithe is spiritual. Jesus rebuked the tithing Pharisee for failure to perceive the real significance of the tenth. He did not realize that the payment of one-tenth is really an acknowledgment that the nine-tenths remaining belong to God.

PART ONE

The Local Drive

A Movement

***T**HAT a mighty Stewardship Movement is now breaking over America is apparent to all.*

That it was providentially timed for this tragic hour, there can be no doubt. Fundamentally it was a call to a high decision to place God and the Kingdom first. But it needed direction, and this is why pastors and leaders of many communions are welcoming a definite program for the directing of this new Stewardship Revival.

How To Organize

Start with the Right Motive

The first requisite for a successful Stewardship Revival is a right motive. The paying of the tithe is not, first of all, a matter of raising money, paying church debts, or of furnishing a cure-all for the many troubles of the church. The tithe is spiritual, and tithing as a financial plan is secondary in scripture and experience to tithing as the test of consecration. Indeed, the need of the hour is not money, but that consecration which systematically and proportionately places money upon the altar.

A Strong Conviction Necessary

No real Stewardship movement can get under way until some one, the pastor or another, has a deep conviction, not only as to the right motives, but that the payment of "a separated portion," is based on the teaching of the Word of God. This is fundamental.

Study the Stewardship Message

There should be a thorough study of the subject of Christian Stewardship in the Word of God, and in available pamphlets and books. The importance of this is very great, as indicated by the action of a number of Districts and Conferences in Methodism where pastors have signed the following enlistment:—

“First, I pledge to my District Superintendent and my brethren in the Annual Conference, my cooperation in this simultaneous endeavor.

“Second, To the above end, I will begin at once to renew my personal study of the subject of Christian Stewardship, as found in the Word of God.”

Launching the Campaign

Wherever possible, there is great advantage in a group of churches conducting the Four Weeks' Educational Stewardship Campaign simultaneously. The impact made by a simultaneous movement in a group, or district, or conference, will carry success to many of the weaker churches. The following suggestions are applicable to any local situation:—

1 An interested pastor, by personal work, interested an influential layman in a definite stewardship campaign.

2 By personal work and the wise use of the stewardship literature, each interested another until there was a larger group.

3 This larger group met and decided upon a stewardship campaign, and drafted a tentative program.

4 At the next Official Board meeting the need and the program were tactfully presented and a stewardship educational campaign officially voted.*

5 A detailed program was made out covering four Sundays, and the mid-week services, providing for the weekly distribution of selected literature, and the publicity of the campaign.

6 The publicity program included (a) popular announcements during a number of preceding weeks; (b) an official letter sent to every family in the Parish during the week preceding the opening Sunday, making emphasis as follows: The Official Board, recognizing the Christian Stewardship Movement as the next great revival in the Church of Christ, directs that the next four weeks be set apart as a period for presenting to the Parish this vital subject.

*The approval of the Official Board is not necessary to the success of the campaign, but will help, if not obtained with too much difficulty.

The Four Weeks' Program

Experience has demonstrated the value of a four weeks' educational program. Below is the outline that has been successfully tried out in hundreds of churches. Additional programs for use in Sunday School, Epworth League, and other organizations are available.

The First Sunday

The Morning Theme: "The Stewardship of Prayer."

Aim:—To show that prayer is "the first work" and the Christian's responsibility; that prayer is the decisive factor in Kingdom Conquest; that scripture and experience teach that unrealized resources are made available through intercession.*

The Evening Theme: "The Stewardship of Souls."

Aim:—To show the Christian's responsibility for soul-winning with special emphasis upon prayer as the decisive factor.

Suggested Literature

For Distribution:

The Stewardship of Prayer	Cushman
The Highest Service	Doughty

For Sermon Suggestions:

Intercession	Doughty
The Life of Prayer	Doughty
Centenary Text book, "Studies in Stewardship," Chapter Five	Cushman

Other publications of the Committee for the Development of Spiritual Resources.

*The Pastor should send to The Methodist Centenary Committee, 111 Fifth Avenue, New York, for a pamphlet entitled, "*The Enlistment of Intercessors*," and for a supply of The Fellowship of Intercession enrolment cards. 2. Present these cards for signature at the close of both morning and evening services with an appeal for consecration to prayer, urging carefulness in thought before signing. 3. Send signed cards to the office, 111 Fifth Avenue, New York.

The Second Sunday

The Morning Theme: "The Stewardship of Life."

Aim:—To realize God's ownership and to show that all life is a trust from God; that just as there is a stewardship of prayer, so there is a stewardship of business, of property, of time, of talents, etc., all pointing to the stewardship of the entire life; that even God's definite claim to one seventh of the time and one-tenth of the income was made only to secure man's acknowledgment of divine sovereignty over all time and property and life; that stewardship is simply Jesus' way of showing that God and the Kingdom must be placed first; that the sins of Jonah, Dives, the Rich Fool and the Rich Young Man were those of refusal to make this full surrender of life; that the heroic characters of Kingdom Conquest have always been characterized by full surrender; that this is the challenge of the present hour.*

The Evening Theme: "The Stewardship of Property."

Aim:—To show that faithful stewardship of property is generally the test of faithfulness in the larger stewardship; that from the beginning God has recognized that the giving of money is the truest index of a sincere human interest; that the study of the scriptural teaching about covetousness shows that this sin is classed with the hideous sin of adultery; that the payment of the tithe has been God's safeguard against this sin.

Suggested Literature

For Distribution:

Thanksgiving Ann
Jarring of Jacob Shapleigh

Hamilton
Calkins

*This theme can be used effectively for leading parents to dedicate their children to the will of God, and to secure from young people life decisions to the same end. Centenary Life Decision Cards may be obtained at headquarters. See envelope marked "Suggestions for the Second Sunday of the Four-Weeks' Christian Stewardship Campaign," enclosed in Pastor's Literature Packet.

For Sermon Suggestions:

The Sin We're Afraid to Mention "By a Business Man"
 A Man and His Money Calkins
 Chapters 1, 2, 6, Part I: 2-6 Part II: 4 and 6 Part V.
 Centenary Textbook, "Studies in Stewardship" Cushman

The Third Sunday—LAYMAN'S DAY

The Layman's Theme: "Christian Stewardship and Tithing."

A layman or a laymen's team, speaking or witnessing on "Tithing and Christian Stewardship," at both morning and evening services. Many churches have found great advantage in putting the evening service of this day into the hands of the women's missionary societies. Where the Pastor has the opportunity to speak, it is suggested that he shall discuss on this day, "The Scriptural Basis of the Tithe." The Layman's Day has proved of great value in numerous campaigns.

Suggested Literature*For General Distribution:*

Stewardship Principles Card
 How to Tithe and Why
 Together with a limited supply of special pamphlets
 How Can a Woman Tithe?
 The Farmer, Can He Tithe?

For Sermon Suggestions:

The New Emphasis Rall
 Centenary Textbook, "Studies in Stewardship" Cushman

The Fourth Sunday—ENROLMENT DAY

Morning Theme: "Stewardship and the World Emergency."

Aim:—To show that there is a present world emergency; that it is a call to Christians to repent for unfaithfulness in stewardship, failure to put Christ and the Kingdom first (Luke 14:33); that the need of the hour is not money, but a new Church, and a new race of Christians who actually will put Christ and the Kingdom first; that as a matter of history and experience this fulness of consecration is evidenced by the placing of property on the altar (Acts 4:32); that the full consecration of property and life will generally be attested by willingness to make

a special dedication of the tenth of income; that in the present world emergency God is calling for this heroic consecration "here and now."*

The Evening Theme: "Stewardship and Faith."

Aim:—To follow up the theme of the morning, emphasizing tithing both as the test of faith, and the acknowledgment of God's ownership and Christ's leadership, using one of the many scriptural passages which after the four weeks' study will become clearly indicated.

Suggested Literature†

For General Distribution:

My Money Creed

A Symposium

Stewardship Principles Card

For Sermon Suggestion

Centenary Textbook, "Studies in Stewardship" Cushman

Drawing the Net

This is a vital matter. A decision to pay "the whole tithe" as an acknowledgment of stewardship, when intelligently and honestly made, will mark a new era in any life. Robert E. Speer writes, "I think every man will find, as every man who has passed through the experience can testify, that the acceptance of a principle like this marks a distinct era of spiritual enlargement in his life." But whether the decision be made by coming forward to shake hands with the pastor, or to take part in an altar service, or whether decisions are requested by standing, it is important that all be registered by the signing of the Centenary Commission's Stewardship Enrolment Card. In some churches good results have been obtained by distributing the card to

*Whatever method is used in drawing the net, the emphasis should be placed upon *consecration*. "The Methodist Million" Enrolment Cards should be signed for the purpose of conserving results.

†All suggested cards and literature, together with other valuable material, not mentioned, can be obtained at Methodist Centenary Headquarters.

the members of the congregation, to be subsequently collected. In any case the congregation should be led in prayer before the cards are signed.*

Campaign Literature

Experience has shown that it is very important that distribution pamphlets and literature should accompany educational campaigns, and distribution should not only be made at the services on Sunday and during the week, but it is still more important that distribution *be made in some way to every home in the parish.*

It has already been noted under The Four Weeks' Program that one or two pamphlets have been suggested "For Distribution" under the program for each Sunday. It will probably be better to put out only one piece of literature in connection with each Sunday, except in the case of the third Sunday where two special pamphlets are suggested.

In general, there will be no waste in distribution if a pastor should order fifty pieces of each kind of literature for every one hundred families in the parish. For the sake of some pastors who desire a suggested selection of literature for the entire campaign, a list is here given, although it is not intended that it should be followed slavishly, for other pieces of literature are fully as valuable.

The following is the list:

A Message from the Parsonage (for preliminary publicity)	
The Stewardship of Prayer	
Fellowship of Intercession Enrolment Blanks	} First Sunday
Thanksgiving Ann (Second Sunday)	
How to Tithe and Why (Third Sunday)	
My Money Creed	
Methodist Million Enrolment Cards	} Fourth Sunday

In addition to the above list and to the pamphlets mentioned in the paragraph headed "The Four Weeks' Program," the pastor will find that

*It is important that the names of all signers should be sent early to the Centenary Headquarters to the Committee for the Promotion of Christian Stewardship and Tithing, that all may be enrolled in "The Methodist Million," and receive "The Methodist Million" membership certificate and necessary follow-up literature. This will be a substantial aid to any campaign.

the distribution of such pamphlets as "The Sin We're Afraid to Mention," "The Story of the Geneva Church," the "New Emphasis," and others named in the Centenary "Price list of Stewardship Literature," will be very valuable in certain localities and to meet certain conditions.

A Simple Organization Necessary

*I*N this day of "team work" some simple organization, with meetings at least once in two months, will be found advantageous as a means of strengthening the purpose of members, educating the people and securing new enrolments.

The following simple plan is being used in hundreds of churches:

President, secretary, treasurer, chairman of program committee, chairman of membership committee, chairman of literature committee, and chairman of question box committee, all of these officers to constitute an executive committee.

This organization may be easily launched by securing a meeting of the tithers and getting some one to make a motion to the effect that the pastor appoint a committee to nominate the officers. The committee can report at the subsequent meeting, and the officers be elected.

The business of the membership and literature committees is evident. The program committee is to see that a real program is set up for each meeting, and the question box committee should receive and report live questions for discussion and education.

How to Use the Tithe Money

*T*HIS is a question that should be decided by the tithers themselves. Liberty of conscience should be always safeguarded.

However, it should be emphasized that, while every steward is responsible to his own conscience, the tithe is "holy unto the Lord" and therefore

should be used for purely Kingdom purposes. Here we give several plans for the administration of the tithe; others will suggest themselves. The office will gladly give advice in special cases.

First: There may be no agreement between the tithers as to how much of the tithe should be administered through the Church. The danger of this absence of a plan is that the Kingdom program will suffer because of no "team work."

Second: There is a plan used by many churches where an agreement is made by the tithers themselves that seventy-five, or some other per cent of the tithe shall be distributed by each individual as he decides, between the two ends of the duplex envelope. The balance of the tithe can then be distributed by each individual among the various church organizations, or elsewhere "for Kingdom purposes."

Third: The store-house plan is being used to advantage in some churches where the tithers agree to bring the full tenth into the local church, in a specially prepared envelope, to be received by the treasurer of the Tithers' Band and distributed by him, to the current expenses, the benevolences, and the contingent fund, according to the vote of the tithers themselves. Appropriations from the contingent fund are voted by the tithers to special local or missionary needs; each tither also being permitted to draw upon the contingent fund for dues to any church organization or other Kingdom work. (A form for the store-house covenant may be obtained at the Centenary Headquarters.)

The Conservation Program

EMERSON said that "persistence is the essence of Heroism." Like every other revival movement the stewardship campaign must be followed up.

The burden of testimony is to the effect that the follow-up program generally brings greater results than the initial drive.

The following points are suggestive for a conservation program.

1 A series of stereopticon World Program Addresses using the Centenary Commission's especially prepared sets of slides.

2 Frequent presentation of "stewardship." At least once a year a campaign for new tithers ending with an annual gathering.

3 The maintenance of a "Tithers' Corner" in every church where the tithers' Covenant Book may be signed and literature obtained.

4 Education in the Sunday School; "Stewardship days" to be observed with every teacher presenting the theme. (Special stewardship lessons can be had at Headquarters.)

5 Stewardship study and campaigns in the Epworth League. Special contest to secure readers for interesting stewardship stories like "The Victory of Mary Christopher," etc.

6 A bi-monthly meeting of the Tithers' Association with program including question box, reports of membership committee and discussion of literature and plans.

7 The interchange of reports, and addresses by laymen of neighboring Stewardship bands.

8 Occasional Stewardship meetings in the mid-week service, conducted by the Stewardship bands.

9 Making the reception of tithes and offerings in the public service more truly a matter of worship.

10 Each association taking as its slogan, "*As much for others as for ourselves.*"

11 Holding up "World Conquest" as a compelling motive to stewardship.

12 Using the Every Member Canvass as an opportunity to enroll tithers, encouraging the use of the Finance Commission's "Unit System."

Other Matters

The Methodist Million Enrolment Cards.

The Centenary Commission issues a uniform enrolment card which can be ordered from Headquarters. As it is the purpose of the Centenary Commission to act as a clearing house for all tithing agencies in all Methodism, an opportunity on the card is given to indicate membership in the Epworth League, Sunday School, Woman's Home Missionary Society, Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, and Ladies' Aid Society, etc.

"The Methodist Million" membership certificates.

These will be sent to all signers of the tithing covenant whose cards or names are forwarded as indicated to the Centenary Headquarters. A follow-up booklet especially prepared to strengthen and educate interest is about to be edited and will be sent to all enrolled Tithing Stewards. It will be to the advantage of local campaigns to send names to headquarters as promptly as possible.

A District or Conference slogan naming a definite number of tithers to be enrolled will generally give larger definiteness and interest to the Stewardship Campaign. However, no slogan should blind us to the fact that *every* Christian has a responsibility to make definite acknowledgment of his stewardship.

PART TWO

The District Drive

A Committee

A DISTRICT Stewardship Committee should be appointed to help the District Superintendent in the carrying out of the program.

In many instances this committee is made up of the subdistrict group captains with the addition of a District Stewardship Secretary. Each captain is responsible to the District Superintendent and the Stewardship Secretary for the thorough working of the program in every pastorate under his supervision.

In case the District campaign is not a part of a Conference campaign, a *general letter* similar to that already described on page 22 in the Conference Drive, together with the pastor's enlistment cards, may be used.

The Committee should have charge of Layman's Day, where necessary supplying the required laymen for the pulpits.

The Suggested Procedure

THE following are additional suggestive steps of procedure:

1. *A District Meeting* at which a full session may be given to addresses on Stewardship, general discussion and the general presentation of the plans for the Stewardship Drive.*

*The stewardship movement has gained ground so rapidly and has been received so heartily in connection with the Centenary campaign that it is a real question whether this preliminary District meeting is longer a necessity. Probably the present suggestion of the Centenary Committee is better—that the District meeting be devoted to a thorough Training Conference. This suggests the advisability of only one District Training meeting, combining the points outlined in the two District meetings here described.

The following is a suggestive outline: (a) Devotions; (b) "The Campaign from the District Superintendent's Standpoint;" (c) "The Campaign from The Laymen's Standpoint;" (d) "The Spiritual Value of The Tithe;" (e) "The Scriptural Meaning of The Tithe;" (f) "The Stewardship Campaign in Detail." The last two themes should be given the longest portion of time. The Stewardship Secretary or the District Superintendent will naturally present "The Campaign in Detail." He should have on hand a full selection of samples of literature.

The importance of the District Training Conference is indicated in the following communication recently received from a District Superintendent. He writes: "Of the ten ministers of my District who did not get to the 'set up' meetings which the Stewardship Representative conducted with me in January, but 3 got 'over the top' and they by but the 'skin of their teeth.'"

2. Training Group Meetings for pastors and selected laymen have proved themselves more necessary than the general district meetings, and should be held even if it is found necessary to omit the larger gathering.

The purpose of the group meetings is two-fold:

(1) A faithful searching out of the fundamental teachings of Stewardship, and (2) a more intimate acquaintance with the details of the campaign.

Honest doubts should be carefully treated, but *controversy should generally be discouraged*. Every pastor should be reached in the group meetings. Frequent recesses should be taken for prayer.

The following list of questions has been used in many groups to direct the thought of the gathering. Often there will be good reason to change the order here given. It would be well to place these questions in the hands of the pastors previous to the gathering.

Discussion Questions for Group Meetings

First, The Stewardship Message

- 1 In general, what is a stewardship?
- 2 What did Jesus mean by Christian Stewardship?
- 3 What is the relation between Christian Stewardship and Tithing?
- 4 What do we mean by the tithe being an "acknowledgment"?
- 5 What is the main motive of a Christian Stewardship or Tithing Campaign?
- 6 What was God's purpose in the Tithe?
- 7 In what way is popular thinking likely to be affected by making the raising of money prominent in Stewardship Campaigns?
- 8 Can the poor man afford to tithe?
- 9 Should women, without income, and children sign the tithing pledge, and should a man sign the pledge for both himself and his wife?
- 10 What kind of testimony should be encouraged among tithers?
- 11 Where is the tithe first mentioned or suggested in scripture?
- 12 Is it fair to call the tithe a Jewish institution?
- 13 Why did Jesus not say more about the principle of tithing?
- 14 What was wrong about the Pharisee's attitude toward the tithe?
- 15 Has I Corinthians 16:1-9 any bearing on the tithing question?
- 16 How avoid the tendency toward legalism?
- 17 Make a brief outline of the principles of Christian Stewardship.
- 18 Discuss the Stewardship of Prayer (see Centenary pamphlet—"The Stewardship of Prayer.")
- 19 What was the attitude of Jesus toward (a) the Stewardship of Life? (b) the sin of covetousness?
- 20 Does tithing intensify the idea of partnership with Jesus? If so, how?

Second, The Stewardship Campaign

- 1 Outline the Centenary's suggested Four Weeks' Stewardship Program.
- 2 What place would you give to pastoral letters and publicity? (See, under list of literature, "A Message From the Parsonage.")
- 3 Make a list of literature to be used on the succeeding Sundays.
- 4 The best method for securing the decision to pay the tithe.
- 5 Should tithers be united in a simple organization?
- 6 Outline a simple form of organization adaptable to any church.
- 7 How administer the tithe? How much through the church?
- 8 When wise to organize on "the storehouse plan"? What is "the storehouse"?
- 9 Criticize an agreement among tithers to divide seventy-five or other per cent of the tithe between the two sides of the duplex envelopes.
- 10 Outline a follow-up or conservation program. (See page 15).
- 11 How may Stewardship be taught to children and young people?
- 12 Upon what will depend the success of our campaign?

PART THREE

The Conference Drive

A Program

THIS Section is prepared to furnish a program of procedure where there is a fair possibility of a Conference Movement.

The Conference Drive may be inaugurated by the vote of the Annual Conference authorizing the campaign, together with the appointment of a commission to make and prosecute the plans, or by the agreement between the conference cabinet and the districts.

This commission should include the district superintendents and may be large enough to permit a fair number of representative ministers and laymen.

The Conference Commission

THIS body should meet as early as possible after appointment, and officers including a chairman, secretary and treasurer should be appointed, and also an executive secretary may be elected to have general oversight of the Conference Drive, and to furnish the connecting link with the Centenary Commission, which body is ready to assist in the promotion of the plans, and in furnishing its standardized literature prepared to fit into every detail of the working program at lowest possible cost.

The Preliminary Letter to Pastors

THE following letter is merely suggestive and is given to indicate some important matters which will be considered at the first meeting of the Conference Stewardship Commission and also to indicate important steps in the Conference Stewardship program:

HEADQUARTERS

Dear Brother:

Your Stewardship Commission, appointed at the Annual Conference to direct the Drive for ——— Thousand Tithers, met on (date) at ———. It was the earnest and unanimous conclusion that the Campaign should be very thoroughly made with the view of permanent results.

To this end, the Commission made some very definite recommendations, and instructed the Executive Secretary to communicate them to each pastor in the Conference.

FIRST We are returning your signed Methodist Million Enrolment Card for your reference (if you have not signed and desire to do so, you will find card enclosed. Please return promptly.)

SECOND We are also sending you a *package of literature selected by the Conference Commission to be studied by every minister.** In addition to the literature sent, we urge also that you read the Centenary Text Book, "Studies in Stewardship" and "A Man and His Money" by Calkins, (\$1, Methodist Book Concern) Part II, Chapters 1, 2, 6. Part IV, Chapters 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. Part V, Chapters 4, 6. In addition to your personal study of literature, plans have been made for a large presentation of Stewardship and Tithing at the district meetings as well as at several institutes to be held in various sections of the conference. Announcements to be made later.

THIRD The commission voted that the Campaign proper should follow the detailed plan embodied in the **FOUR WEEKS' PROGRAM** as outlined by the Stewardship Department of the Joint Centenary Committee, and it was further voted that the campaign should begin simultaneously on Sunday ———. *However, with this*

*The Centenary Headquarters will supply these packages of literature at 20 cents each.

exception, that where the field is ripe, individual churches may begin at their pleasure. The cooperation of the central office in supplying speakers, both ministers and laymen, will be given.

FOURTH The enclosed pamphlet, "*How to Organize the Stewardship Campaign*" will suggest the general plan for the Local Drive. The Commission is preparing a list of available speakers and will cooperate with every pastor. As literature for weekly distribution is very important, it is necessary that you have the proper supply which should be ordered at an early date.*

This preliminary letter will doubtless awaken many questions which we will be glad to answer. The Commission desires to emphasize the importance of daily prayer for the large success of this providential movement.

(Signed) Executive Secretary.

*Follow-up booklets are soon to be edited and a copy will later be sent to each Tithing Steward who holds a Methodist Million Membership Certificate.

What is the Centenary Movement?

It is commemorative of the one hundredth anniversary of Methodist Missions. It is God's trumpet call to Methodism to face the world's greatest crisis. It is a call to repent. The Church has been praying "Thy Kingdom come on earth," but has not ministered to hungry millions in foreign fields and nearer home.

So world-wide emergencies crowd upon us demanding vast expenditure of wealth and large enlistment of the youth of Methodism. Adding to the seriousness of the situation comes the general warning to the Church for "preparedness" for the great "after-war." The Church of Christ is soon to be tested as never before.

The need of the hour is a revived and mightily spiritualized Church. The Centenary Movement, in God's providence, was raised up by the General Conference not primarily to supply millions of money, but to lift Methodism to a new plane of spiritual vision and ministry from which it shall accomplish its part of the Christian Conquest of the World.

The Slogan A Million Tithers in Methodism

The Department for the Promotion of Christian Stewardship and Tithing is one of the providential agencies of the Centenary Movement for this new uplift of the Church

Joint Centenary Committee

**Methodist Episcopal Church
Methodist Episcopal Church, South
111 Fifth Avenue, New York**

For Information and Literature address Joint Centenary Committee, Methodist Episcopal Church, 111 Fifth Avenue, New York
